GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3219
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
PDS IN RURAL AREAS
PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Distribution System is weak in rural areas especially in North-Eastern States;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken several steps to strengthen the PDS in rural areasand also to ensure that its benefits reaches the poor;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a): No, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d): Government has undertaken a series of measures to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country.

(i) Based on the belief that truely democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has advised the State Governmentsto more substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

(ii) The allocation of foodgrains for the BPL,category was doubled from 10 kg to 20 kg. w.e.f. 1.4.2000 which has been further raised to 25 kg. per family per month from July, 2001.

(iii) To ensure smooth flow of PDS commodities especially in rural, remote, hilly and tribal areas, financial assistance is provided under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of `Construction of Godowns` and `Purchase of Vans`.

(iv) Government of India is reimbursing road transport cost on actual basis for lifting offoodgrains, to be distributed through PDS network, from the base depots of FCI to the designated Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) under the Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS) scheme, which is applicable to predominantly hilly States (including North-Eastern States and Island Territories).

(v) Antoyodaya Anna Yojana has been implemented throughout the country. The scheme envisages 25 kg. foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice.

(vi) In order to maintain supplies, secure availability and distribution of subsidized commodities to the targeted beneficiaries under the PDS, the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31.8.2001.